Commission servers/bearers

*535. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether commission servers/bearers in the catering wing of commercial department of Southern Railway were later named as salary bearers/servers with scale of pay 775-1050 and were later regularized as service/bearers;

(b) if so, whether the period of above employees served as commission servers/bearers and salary bearers/servers was considered for service benefits; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The commission bearers/vendors were absorbed in the scale of Rs. 775-1025/-.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Special scheme for providing foodgrains in Sikkim

*536. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any special scheme for providing foodgrains and other essential items to the poor tribal and non-tribal people living below poverty line in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the schemes being run by Government presently for these tribal groups in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Government of India is implementing the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in Sikkim. Under this scheme, the Government is providing foodgrains to all people living below poverty line (BPL) in Sikkim including both tribal and non-tribal people. At present, the number of families under the BPL category